

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

--[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/431,396, filed December 6, 2002. In addition, this application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 10/166,346, filed November 26, 2001 now abandoned, which in turn was a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/692,484 filed October 19, 2000, now issued as US Patent No. 6,446,564, which claimed the benefit of U.S. Provisional Applications No. 60/171,123, filed December 16, 1999 and No. 60/221,743 filed July 31, 2000. Each of these applications is herein incorporated in its entirety by reference. --

Please replace the paragraph [0082] with the following amended paragraph:

--[0082] Figures 11 and 12 show the top part of a structure with a fixed top 20 and a stowable top section 30 that can conveniently be retracted below the fixed top 20 to expose or provide access to the area below. The structure and tops may comprise, but are not limited to, desktops, kiosks, work stations, work benches, plane or boat bulkheads, accessory panels on boats and planes, floors, library tables, conference tables, credenzas, dressing tables, vanities, commodes, benches, seats of chairs, chests, secretaries, occasional tables or kitchen counters or any horizontal or vertical, planar surface in which a stowable work surface is desired. One skilled in the art will readily appreciate that the present invention may also be implemented in manhole covers, access panels, hatch covers, and trap doors. To illustrate the general purpose to which the invention is directed a tray or shelf, 80, is shown to be visible and accessible when the stowable top is retracted. When the stowable top is in the raised position as in FIG 11 it is available for use as a desktop, countertop, bearing surface or simply to cover or conceal the area below it. When the

stowable top is retracted the area below through an opening 20' it is accessible for a variety of uses. The shelf is representative of the alternative facilities mentioned above.--